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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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COUNTRY

SUBJECT

East Germany

Farm Conditions in the Mecklenburg Area

PLACE
ACQUIRED

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1. Catastrophic conditions have prevailed in the agricultural economy since the arrival of freezing weather. The cold weather followed so quickly after the persistent rains that it has not been possible, up to the present time, to harvest the beets and part of the potatoes. All the serviceable vehicles are engaged in the work at the Rugan base. Manpower, with the eight-hour day to which the land workers limit themselves, is inadequate.

In the municipality of Karus-Usedom¹ 30 hectares of sugar beets were still in the ground on 1 December 1952. Of 400 hectares of winter seeding, only 120 hectares had been sown. In the municipality of Laipe-Usedom, more than 20 hectares of sugar beets and five hectares of potatoes remained unharvested. Volkspolizei units have been put to work at the harvesting in about five degrees of frost.

Things came to a small revolt among the collectors of the Greifswald district. They were accused of sabotage by the Socialist Unity Party (SED) because they had not known how to work without rest, and had been too much influenced by common human feelings. Now each collector must find 3 to 5 tons of pork daily (sic) before Christmas, as a punishment because the peasants have nothing left, there is nothing to seize.

4. A further surprise for the collectors is that they are to be taken over by the so-called district authority on 1 January 1953, when their pay will be reduced 25 DM per month and their collection quotas raised. Supervision of the collectors will also be strengthened.

1. Comment: The municipalities of Karusu- and Leipe - Usedom have not been identified from available reference material.

CLASSIFICATION **SECRET**

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